



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

January 11, 2007

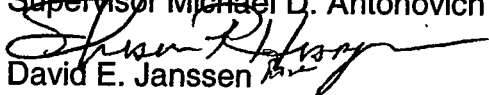
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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
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From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO ALLOW DISCLOSURE OF BIRTH
FAMILY RECORDS FOR PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED CHILDREN WHO RETURN TO
FOSTER CARE (ITEM NO. 7, AGENDA OF JANUARY 16, 2007)**

Item No. 7 on the January 16, 2007 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich directing the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Chief Administrative Office to work with members of the Los Angeles County State Legislative delegation, and the County Welfare Directors Association to sponsor legislation to allow the disclosure of family birth records for adopted children who are placed back in the foster care system when an adoption is disrupted or the adoptive parent becomes incapacitated or dies.

Under current law, child welfare agencies may petition the juvenile court to obtain birth family records of adopted children; however, the agencies are prohibited from disclosing identifying information about the adoptee, the adoptee family or the birth family. If an adoption is disrupted, or if the adoptive parent becomes incapacitated or dies, child welfare agencies are unable to share information in the court records which could be used to recruit a birth family member to care for the child. As result, children who lose an adoptive home are more likely to return to and remain in foster care. This legislative proposal will provide a limited exception to the confidentiality of birth records to allow welfare agencies to explore family birth connections for these children.

DCFS recommends support for this legislation because it will ensure that previously adopted children who return to the foster care system are afforded every opportunity to achieve permanency, and we concur. Support for this proposal is consistent with current

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Board policy to support proposals to achieve permanency for previously adopted children who have returned to the foster care system as a result of an adoption disruption or the death/incapacitation of an adoptive parent. Our Sacramento Advocates will pursue this legislation.

DEJ:GK
MAL:VE:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Director, Department of Children and Family Services